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Security Information

7 January 1953

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED], EA/DCI

SUBJECT : Item to be Discussed by Admiral Kirk at PSB Luncheon  
on 8 January 1953

1. PSB plans nearing completion under the old planning format set forth basic tasks with an assignment of primary and support action responsibilities to the departments and agencies. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have recently questioned the statutory authority for any specific action assignments being prescribed for the Department of Defense. However, the Board itself resolved this matter in consideration of the plans for [REDACTED] by a resolution which pre- 25X6  
scribed that the actions listed were permissive rather than mandatory. This same concept is stressed in the new planning format being adopted for future PSB plans development.

2. It has been the understanding of the departments and agencies that actions are permissive rather than mandatory and the posting of of action assignments is to assure clarity of understanding and thorough integration of the psychological effort without the force of a directive.

3. It is the view of Defense that they should be charged with the operational planning to accomplish certain objectives and that the precise assignment of task responsibilities by the PSB might, in essence, vitiate the broad strategy.

4. It is the belief of the CIA staff, as well as the Department of State, that the listing of action assignment under the task provides a clear exposition of primary and support interest which will facilitate coordination and the development of operational plans to implement the specific tasks. It is the view of the staff that elimination or exclusion of this action responsibility fundamentally weakens the plan. 25X6

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Plans and Programs  
Political and Psychological Warfare